

DRAFT



THE SALK INSTITUTE

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Frederic de Hoffmann
President

January 15, 1982

Dr. Charles S. Smith
Systems Development Foundation
Suite 210
131 Lytton Avenue
Palo Alto, California 94301

Dear Dr. Smith:

Your discussions with Dr. Francis Crick about research on the subject of a computational approach to an understanding of the higher nervous system were very much appreciated. Dr. Crick and I are grateful for your and Dr. Kinzel's visit to the Institute.

Thank you for allowing us to prepare a proposal to the Systems Development Foundation concerning this research, which is enclosed.

Permit me to say a few introductory words. Some ten years ago, The Salk Institute very deliberately set out to emphasize research work in the neurosciences and to build a broadly based group of senior scientists in the field. When Dr. Crick, who has been associated with the Institute ever since its inception in 1965, decided to (a) join The Salk

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Institute permanently in 1976, and (b) to intensively devote his time to the neurosciences, this greatly enhanced the chances of significant new findings in the neurosciences field at the Institute.

The possibility of funding the proposed project by the Systems Development Foundation comes at a most opportune time. This would ~~culminate the long and distinguished career of Dr. Crick~~ ^e by enabling ~~him~~ to have a real impact on the "new" neurosciences. He would lead the theoretical work and have related experimental work carried out at his suggestion.

We at the Institute will continue to do our utmost to provide the scientific research atmosphere which Dr. Crick needs. The directors of the experimental laboratories at The Salk Institute assured me that they too will cooperate fully to enable necessary experiments to be carried out.

I am also pleased to confirm that although most all space at the Institute is now committed to existing programs, we have made arrangements to assure that the necessary office space is made available to the program and that the laboratories can accommodate the type of experiments now foreseen.

Financial information with respect to the five-year

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proposal is summarized in Appendix A ~~in escalated dollars~~
and explanatory notes are contained in Appendix B.

We hope that this proposal meets the criteria set by
the Board of the Systems Development Foundation because of
the following:

- 1) It is a novel proposal in an area of research
which we believe to be of interest to you
- 2) With today's government cuts in research funding,
the program which is at the edge of current scientific
work has little opportunity to get government
funding

Furthermore, on non-governmental side, very few foundations
in this country have the ability to appreciate the importance
of this kind of work.

We are deeply appreciative that the Systems Development
Foundation has given us this opportunity to submit a proposal.

Yours very sincerely,

FdH:cl
Enclosures